

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A lifting device for lifting and inverting a refuse collection container having a body with spaced-apart upper and lower engagement surfaces, the lifting device comprising:

a base;

a face plate pivotally mounted with respect to the base for movement between a first, lower position and a second, raised and inverted position;

an actuator mounted to the base and operatively attached to the face plate for moving the face plate between the lower and the raised and inverted positions;

a lift member fixedly mounted to the face plate for engaging the upper engagement surface of a refuse collection container; and

a latch assembly mounted to the face plate for capturing the lower engagement surface on the refuse collection container, the latch assembly further comprising a track carried by the face plate; a slide movably mounted in the track; a hook pivotally carried by the slide for movement between a position for capturing the lower engagement surface and a retracted position, the hook being biased toward the capturing position; and at least one actuator arm having first and second ends, the first end being pivotally carried by the base and the second end being operatively connected to the slide,

whereby when the face plate is moved from the raised and inverted position to the lower position, the actuator arm moves

the slide along the track to cause the hook to engage a portion of the face plate to move the hook to the retracted position.

2. The lifting device of Claim 1 wherein the actuator comprises a rotary actuator having a housing that is carried by the base and a rotatable output shaft, the face plate being mounted to the output shaft.

3. The lifting device of Claim 2 further comprising a lift arm that connects the output shaft of the rotary actuator to the face plate.

4. The lifting device of Claim 2 further comprising a support arm carried on the base and wherein the first end of the actuator arm is pivotally mounted to the support arm.

5. The lifting device of Claim 1 further comprising a spring for biasing the hook toward the position for engaging a lower engagement surface of a refuse collection container.

6. The lifting device of Claim 4 wherein the support arm is carried by the base inboard of an end of the rotatable output shaft.

7. A lifting device for lifting and inverting a refuse collection container having a body with spaced-apart upper and lower engagement surfaces, the lifting device comprising:

a base;

a lift member for engaging the upper engagement surface of a refuse collection container;

a hook for capturing the lower engagement surface on the refuse collection container, the hook being pivotally movable between a position for capturing the lower engagement surface

and a retracted position, the hook being biased toward the capturing position;

an actuator mounted to the base and operable to move the lift member and hook in unison between a first, lower position and a second raised and inverted position;

at least one actuator arm having first and second ends, the first end being pivotally carried by the base and the second end being operatively connected to the hook,

whereby when the lift member and hook are moved from the raised and inverted position to the lower position, the actuator arm moves the hook to the retracted position.

8. The lifting device of Claim 7 wherein the actuator comprises a rotary actuator carried by the base and having a rotatable output shaft, the lift member and hook being moved between the first and second positions by rotation of the output shaft.

9. The lifting device of Claim 8 further comprising a lift arm that connects the output shaft of the rotary actuator to the hook.

10. The lifting device of Claim 8 further comprising a support carried on the base and wherein the first end of the actuator arm is pivotally mounted to the support.

11. The lifting device of Claim 7 further comprising a spring for biasing the hook toward the position for engaging a lower engagement surface of a refuse collection container.

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12. The lifting device of Claim 10 wherein the support is carried by the base inboard of an end of the rotatable output shaft.